

HORSEMAN SHINES

Sports Mail Special Report

HOME supporters had an opportunity of assessing Wycombe Wanderers' new 3-3-4 formation in their Isthmian League game against Walthamstow Avenue today. Wycombe had nearly all the play and were two up at the interval—both Horseman goals.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Bradshaw, Beck; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Roystone, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

Walthamstow Avenue: Granger; Gray, Brewer; Brazil, Clarke, King; Wootton, Lewis, O'Shea, Jackson, Hopwood.

Referee: D. G. Ball.

On the frozen pitch, cleared of a light layer of snow during the morning, Wycombe set a lively pace at the start and Walthamstow were lucky to escape after a series of strong home attacks when Horseman just failed to divert a shot across the face of the goal from Merrick.

Walthamstow, with Jim Lewis making his first appearance in the attack since October, were kept largely in their own half.

HOT ATTACK

As Wycombe kept up their attacks a shot by Bates was diverted wide of the goal by centre half Clarke and then goalkeeper Granger tipped a header from Horseman over the crossbar.

Wycombe eventually took a well-deserved lead in the 36th

minute when Gale swung the ball across for HORSEMAN to make sure with a fine header, and just before half-time HORSEMAN added a second from a pass from Bates.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 2, Walthamstow Ave 0.

Early in the second half Samuels got the ball in again for Wycombe, only to be ruled off-side.

The Wanderers were soon besieging the Avenue goal again and SAMUELS added a third with a brilliant header from a corner by Bates after a hectic period of sustained Wycombe pressure.

Walthamstow again rallied strongly and inside-left JACKSON seized on a long pass from left-back Brewer and nipped through to score.

Just before the end HORSEMAN scored a fourth for Wycombe by converting a free kick by Bates.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDS 4
WALTHAMSTOW AV .. 1

HORSEMAN STARS FOR WYCOMBE

Wycombe 4 Walthamstow 1

WITH three brilliant goals Tony Horseman, their pint-sized inside left gave Wycombe Wanderers Isthmian League revenge over Walthamstow Avenue who had defeated the Wanderers in the first match of the season.

Wycombe had much of the game thanks largely to the midfield constructive play of Baker and Gale but in face of Walthamstow's stubborn defence it was 36-minutes before danger man Horseman managed to get the ball past the busy Granger. He smacked in a second just before half time.

Inside forwards Jackson and Jim Lewis, back in the Avenue attack for the first time since October, inspired a Walthamstow revival in the second half.

But after having one goal disallowed for offside Samuel's increased Wycombe's lead before Jackson managed to pull one back for Walthamstow from a pass by 17-year-old Chelsea youth player Brewer.

Walthamstow, however, failed to sustain the rally and a series of Wycombe attacks culminated in Horseman scoring his third in the last minute.